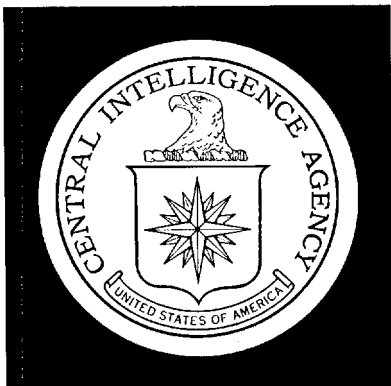


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[SOUTH VIETNAM: Vietnamese Communists are reported to be supporting the smuggling of hard drugs into South Vietnam.

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the Viet Cong in Takeo Province, Cambodia, are selling opium and heroin as well as marijuana to smugglers from Chau Doc, Vietnam.

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The Communists obtain marijuana locally, but opium and heroin, already processed and refined, allegedly are brought into Cambodia by the North Vietnamese. District-level cadres reportedly are willing to sell the drugs at or below cost to ensure that a steady flow into South Vietnam reaches government civil servants and US servicemen; any profits they make are used to purchase supplies and equipment for local units. Viet Cong personnel are strictly forbidden to use the drugs themselves, and anyone caught smoking opium risks the death penalty.

The smugglers pay in currency or by trading medicines or other supplies. One Cambodian smuggler reportedly moves approximately 10 to 20 pounds of opium and heroin each month across the border into Chau Doc, where it is sold to middlemen, who then resell the drugs to US servicemen in Can Tho city.

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